

IMAGINATION

WHAT

IF ?



IMAGINATION: *WHAT IF – Living & Breathing God!*

- Faith is an act of the imagination. And a healthy, vibrant imagination is crucial to the Christian life. Imagination is not the opposite of reality or the enemy of truth.
- Our problem is not an overactive imagination. The real threat is a lack of imagination, or an imagination stunted or misshaped by our experience.
- Some of us are stuck in “**if only**” living marked by regret, feelings of guilt, fear, and doubt. But God can turn your “**if only**” mindset into a “**what if**” attitude, where your faith looks forward to the future with holy confidence.
- The Bible calls us to adopt an active imagination that helps us look beyond our experience like those who modeled a fearless faith before us!



A person stands on a dark, rocky cliff, facing away from the camera with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or awe. The background is a vast, open landscape under a dramatic sky with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of contemplation and hope.

IMAGINATION: *What If* – We are Called to Imagine! Imagine That: Looking at What We Don't Yet See. PSALM 27:4

1. DWELL → A fundamental element of participating in a confessional community where they can address their problems more effectively in a safe and secure environment. It's where men experience real life.
2. GAZE → Gazing is an integrating process. Shame disintegrates the mind and relationships. Gazing integrates our mind by being seen, soothed, safe, and secure in the presence of our shame and trauma that gives us the opportunity to heal. When we gaze upon the beauty of the Lord in a confessional community, we heal.
3. INQUIRE → To inquire is to be curious, not only of others but of ourselves, and to allow others to do the same. In the process of creating, we are first curious. Curiosity necessarily leads to questions.

IMAGINATION: *What If* – **AS IF!** – *Romans 8:5* - “Those who trust God’s Action in them find that God’s Spirit is in them—living and breathing God.”

IMAGINATION: *What If* – AS IF → What is real vs. what is imagined—the brain does not distinguish between them. Therein lies the power of **AS IF**. Therein lies the power of faith. It sees the invisible. It believes the impossible. **AS IF** bridges the gap between **IF ONLY** and **WHAT IF**. It’s the way we defy our circumstances. It’s the way God’s promises become our reality.

1. **THINKING JESUS** → The mind of Christ is the Word of God (Phil. 2:5). How do we set our mind on the things of the Spirit. That’s how we tap into the power of *as if*. One surefire way to be filled with God’s Spirit is to be filled with God’s Word.
2. **DAILY DISCIPLINES** → Daily disciplines are the key to reach your goals. You get there one day at a time. The Bible is the land of milk and honey. It is our Promised Land. There are thousands of promises in Scriptures, and each of those what if’s is there for the taking. The goal isn’t to get through the Bible. The goal is to get the Bible through me (Psalm 119:103).



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3. **GET INTO GOD’S WORD** → Make a vow to get into God’s Word every single day (Deut. 17:1)8-20). The key word here is *keep*. The Jewish rabbis said that every word of Scripture has seventy faces and six hundred thousand meanings. God ideas come from the Holy spirit who both seals things in our memory and reveals things to our imagination. Keep is one of those kaleidoscopic words in Hebrew. The word keep means keepsake, as in treasured possession.
4. **LIVE OUT GOD’S WORD** → The Bible is meant to be prayed through, meditated on, and lived out. Romans 8:11 – “... He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life (quicken your mortal bodies KJV) to your mortal bodies ...).” Quickening – give life – refers to our bodily resurrection from the dead. The Holy Spirit quickens us in more ways than one, i.e., an idea that God brings to mind, a prompting to step out in faith, a word of wisdom in a difficult situation, etc. Quickening seems to happen most often when we are meditating on the Word of God.



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5. REACTION TIME → Promptings of the Holy Spirit are meant to move us toward action. Your reaction time is the time lapse between God’s command and your obedience. And it’s one of the best measures of spiritual maturity (James 1:19).
6. CATALYZE → The word quicken means to catalyze (Hebrews 4:12). Every time we read the Word of God; a little resurrection happens. It impregnates us with possibilities. The Word of God gives birth to *what if*.





ACTION: Journal This!

1. What if you are one decision away from a totally different life? What is God wanting to do IN and THROUGH YOU?
2. How is God wanting YOU to trust Him?
3. What HELP do you need from God?